(xi) An amount of Rs. 45 lakhs each released under Reproductive and Child Health Services to the states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa for IEC activities with the condition to utilize 30% of the total amount on mass media activities and 70 % of the amount on sensitization purposes may be utilized to create awareness on the activities of EAG.

Water-borne diseases

3688. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the water-borne diseases are on the rise in various parts of the country ; and

(b) the precautionary measures being taken by Government to prevent these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) : The Government is aware that despite the various steps being taken, there continues to be a prevalence of water-borne diseases in some parts of the country.

The precautionary measures being taken by the Government include provision of safe drinking water and taking adequate steps to improve hygienic sanitation facilities to the vulnerable sections of the society both in rural and urban areas. Steps have also been taken to create awareness among the masses about good sanitary habits and health seeking behaviour which will contribute to reduction of incidence of water borne diseases. The Government has also initiated an Oral Rehrydration Therapy Programme and a National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases as a pilot project in selected districts for detection of early warning signals of outbreaks for cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases and rapid response for prevention and control of these outbreaks.

ORS for children with diarrhoea

3689. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that only 27 per cent children with diarrhoea in the country receive ORS;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;